

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 023743

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS STATE 023743

FOLLOWING SENT PARIS FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 05 FEB 74:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 023743

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR IRWIN'S TESTIMONY BEFORE
CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE

FOR AMBASSADOR IRWIN FROM ANDERSON (H)

1. WITH DEPT'S CONCURRENCE, CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE RELEASED AT NOON, FEBRUARY 5, TRANSCRIPT OF YOUR EXECUTIVE SESSION ON JANUARY 31. WE WENT OVER TRANSCRIPT WITH SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER, BLUM, ON FEBRUARY 4 TO CORRECT OBVIOUS TRANSCRIBING ERRORS AND MAKE SOME CHANGES IN TESTIMONY, MOSTLY OF FACTUAL NATURE. WE HAVE PROVIDED SUBCOMMITTEE WITH TWO ITEMS TO BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 5 AS INSERTS IN TRANSCRIPT. THESE ITEMS ARE SET OUT IN PARA. 2 BELOW. WE WILL ALSO GIVE SUBCOMMITTEE EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE TRANSCRIPT AND OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL BEFORE FULL RECORD OF HEARINGS IS FINALLY PUBLISHED.

2. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO SUBCOMMITTEE BY DEPT FOR RELEASE WITH TRANSCRIPT:
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PAGE 02 STATE 023743

(A) RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER DEPT EVER REQUESTED OIL COMPANY CABLE TRAFFIC: QUOTE (THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DID NOT REQUEST THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPEC TO PROVIDE IT WITH COPIES OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE COMPANY NEGOTIATORS, THE LONDON POLICY GROUP AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THOSE COMPANIES. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT WAS KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH MR. JAMES AKINS, THEN DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF FUELS AND ENERGY, DURING THE APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEK PERIOD HE REMAINED IN LONDON FOLLOWING UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN'S RETURN FROM THE MIDDLE EAST ON JANUARY 23. SUBSEQUENTLY, INFORMATION ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS PASSED TO MR. AKINS IN THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES' HEAD OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES.) UNQTE

(B) INFO ON SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING FROM YOUR RECOMMENDATION RE HAVING SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS IN GULF TO TIME COMPANIES WERE INFORMED THEREOF: QTE (AMBASSADOR IRWIN HAS ASKED THAT HIS TESTIMONY AT THIS POINT BE EXPANDED AS FOLLOWS, IN LIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS:

UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN ARRIVED IN TEHRAN, IRAN ON JANUARY 17, 1971, FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. ON JANUARY 18, 1971, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE A REPORT OF THE UNDER SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN THAT REPORT, THE UNDER SECRETARY STATED HIS BELIEF, BASED ON ALL OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN TEHRAN, THAT, IN VIEW OF THE ASSURANCES WHICH THE PERSIAN GULF PRODUCERS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE ON FUTURE PRICE RATCHETING, THE COMPANIES SHOULD BE URGED TO AGREE TO NEGOTIATE IN TEHRAN WITH THE GULF PRODUCERS. UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN ASKED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE PASS HIS VIEWS URGENTLY TO JOHN J. MCCLOY OR TO THE COMPANIES' CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

THE UNDER SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDATION WAS CONSIDERED IN THE DEPARTMENT. EARLY IN THE EVENING
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 023743

OF JANUARY 18, 1971, SECRETARY ROGERS CALLED MR. MCCLOY, THE COMPANIES' REPRESENTATIVE, AND GAVE HIM A SUMMARY OF UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. SECRETARY ROGERS SUGGESTED TO MR. MCCLOY THAT THE COMPANIES WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GULF PRODUCERS WITH PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH LIBYA. LATER THAT EVENING, THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTED

AMBASSADOR MACARTHUR IN TEHRAN TO BRIEF THE COMPANIES AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR MACARTHUR WAS ALSO ADVISED OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY SECRETARY ROGERS TO INFORM MR. MCCLOY.

AT NOON, JANUARY 19, 1971, AMBASSADOR MACARTHUR MET WITH THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND DUTCH AMBASSADORS, AND WITH LORD STRATHALMOND, MR. PIERCEY AND MR. VAN REEVEN (THE CONSORTIUM'S REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN), TO BRIEF THEM, AS INSTRUCTED. IN THE COURSE OF THIS BRIEFING, AMBASSADOR MACARTHUR ALSO CONVEYED TO THE AMBASSADORS AND TO THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES WHAT SECRETARY ROGERS HAD SAID TO MR. MCCLOY.

AS THE INFORMATION ABOVE INDICATES, THE COMPANIES WERE FIRST INFORMED OF THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN'S DISCUSSIONS IN TEHRAN BY SECRETARY ROGERS THROUGH THE COMPANIES' REPRESENTATIVE, JOHN J. MCCLOY, ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 18, 1971.) UNQTE.

3. WE ARE POUCHING YOU COPIES OF TRANSCRIPT AS RELEASED TO PUBLIC AND MATERIAL*PROVIDED BY US. KISSINGER UNQUOTE RUSH

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